

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On a recent trip to Parkfield, Calif., Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) met with Jack Varian, owner of the V6 ranch in southern Monterey County. Varian, a proponent of sustainable ranching, discussed several of his projects under way to advance green ranching strategies while also promoting tourism in the area.

A featured program will take place on Saturday, February 2, when Varian and volunteers will plant 1,000 valley oak trees along Parkfield Coalinga Road. This project, which began with a massive acorn collection, is one of many that Varian is pursuing to make his ranch more attractive, environmentally sensitive and appealing to tourists.

"The work that Jack Varian has done over the years is inspiring," said Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "It's always an adventure to visit his ranch and hear him talk about his projects. Jack is a great example of how ranchers can be great stewards of our land. The trees are just one of many great ideas Jack has come up with, and I look forward to more. Jack is an inspiration for ranchers and conservationists alike."

Varian has owned and operated his 17,000-acre V6 Ranch near Parkfield for almost 50 years. Varian stresses conservation in his approach to ranching, with a focus on sustainable grazing. His family hosts cattle drives and other ranch experiences.

Volunteers for the tree planting are appreciated and can gather at the Parkfield Cafe at 8:30 a.m. on February 2. The planting is being coordinated by Bill Tietje, an area natural resource specialist with the Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program affiliated with the University of California Cooperative Extension office in San Luis Obispo. He can be reached at 805-781-5940.

#